

**South Carolina Environmental Laboratory Advisory Council Meeting  
October 24, 2001**

Meeting called to order at 10:10 am at DHEC Quality Training Center, State Park Campus.

**Attendance**

Paul Fitzgerald	Cheryl Sommers
Lee Barnard	Alfred Baquiran
Sam Avery	Charmaine Flemming
Frances Miller	
T. John Williams	

July 26, 2001 Minutes Accepted

**I. Old Business:**

- 1) **Permitting Issues:** The current NPDES permit limits have been made available (see attached). SCELAC representatives discussed how unfeasible and unattainable these limits are with available technology.
  - These limits are defined in PQLs ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) which are arbitrarily selected not derived based upon limits based upon stream loading calculations.
  - According to Labcert PQL values will be defined by the low standard on the calibration curve.
  - There is concern that since PQLs and not MDLs are being used, many laboratories will report instrument detection limits (DL) instead of what is actually attainable by the method.
  - The Office of Environmental Laboratory Certification now offers certification for parameters such as mercury by method 1669/1631C.
  - The approved methodology for trace metals no longer includes the use of ICP (EPA 200.7), but ICP-MS is required.
  - No limits or methods are available for COD or sodium (Na), but they will be established as necessary.
  - Remember that permit limits will be established as individual permits are renewed and permit limits are negotiable.
  - Please compile comments and get them to Cheryl or Charmaine at [scelac\\_sc@yahoo.com](mailto:scelac_sc@yahoo.com) for a response to Melinda Vickers by November 16, 2001
- 2) **Laboratory Certification Inconsistency Position Letter:** A response was received from Wayne Davis requesting specific examples of evaluator inconsistencies. Please send examples to [scelac\\_sc@yahoo.com](mailto:scelac_sc@yahoo.com). A roundtable discussion is scheduled with Wayne Davis, Labcert Director and Daphne Neel, Assistant Bureau Chief over Laboratory Services for the January 15, 2002 meeting. Please send comments to SCELAC by December 30, 2001
- 3) **Proficiency Testing (PT) Issues:** Sam Avery is preparing a PT letter to be completed by December 30, 2001. Please send comments and concerns to his attention at [scelac\\_sc@yahoo.com](mailto:scelac_sc@yahoo.com).
- 4) **Microbiological Issues:** Still waiting on a response from LabCert to verify the policy that requires a weekly coliform positive and a weekly blank for Colilert

Presence/Absence analysis. These requirements seem excessive and are not cost effective.

- 5) ***New Representatives:*** SCELAC is in need of new representatives and to fill current vacancies: federal (2), industrial (1), and field/small municipality (1).  
-will update nomination forms and review those on file to find someone that may still be willing and available.  
-advertise in the Southeastern Laboratory Society (SELS) *Distillate* and at the local WEASC local district newsletters in order to gain more participation.  
-Representatives should forward nomination forms by November 30, 2001 to:

Charmaine Flemming, Lab Director,  
Petrus Environmental Services, Inc. - Lab  
517 N. Guignard Drive Sumter, SC 29150

- 6) ***Matrix Interference*** : Cheryl and Sam will be working together to establish guidelines for pretreatment officials

## II. **New Business**

- 1) ***Guidance Documents and QC Limits:*** It was proposed that guidance should be made available for QC results in order to determine if they are out of limits.  
-Reps will work on coming up with a format that will assist labs with identifying QC limits.
- 2) ***2002 Meetings:*** Representatives decided that in order to better accomplish the council's task, additional meeting dates would be added to the 2002 schedule. SCELAC will now meet six (6) annually instead of four (4). The 2002 meeting dates are as follows: **Jan 15, March 27, May 22, July 25, September 18, and November 12.** All meetings will be held at 10:00 am in Columbia.

## III. **Adjournment**